

## Marianist Lay Communities in the Church and in the World –Talking Points

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### Introduction

- What special gifts do Marianist Lay Communities bring to the Church and world?
- How have you personally benefited from these gifts?

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### Community and Marianist Family

Our “Experience of God [as community] encourages us to have an open and dialoguing spirit with everyone.... Our communities are characterized by a welcoming approach to people.”

- What creative steps can we take to put ourselves among those who are seeking a faith community?
- If a person shows interest in your community, how do they learn about your values and history? Is it simply by attending meetings? Or, do you have an intentional formation process?
- List three ways our community can improve the process of forming new members, encouraging people to learn about our values and history.
- What activities have we had in the past year that included other communities, members of the Marianist Sisters or Society of Mary? How do these laity and religious enrich our gatherings? What do we ask of them?

### The Church

“We see the need for MLCs to find ways that allow for a direct participation and more open and significant representation of the faithful in the life of the Church.”

- How can we as individuals and community “promote a more humble, understanding, and dialoguing Church, less wealthy” and more inclusive and responsive to the needs of *all* people?
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### Opening Prayer

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, inspire us to do as your words invite, “I have one ambition: to do the greatest possible good.”

May we all be missionaries—present in the world, in union with Christ, in alliance with Mary, and witnesses of the Gospel. We pray that we may be partners on the journey of faith, bringing Christ into the world with the vision, perseverance, and love of Mother Adèle, Blessed Chaminade, and Marie Thérèse de Lamourous.

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### Closing Prayer

Like Mary, let us invite others to “do whatever he tells” us. United in this union with the Mother we reach the Son.

**Suggested Song:** Magnificat

## Society

“The mission that is proper and specific to the laity should be carried out in the world, so that, with our testimony and our activity, we may contribute to the transformation of the world and the creation of more fair structures.”

- How do you contribute to “the transformation of the world” through your lifestyle choices, family life, and life at work?
- How can your community “contribute to the transformation of the world” through works of charity and social justice—especially as these works relate to the poor and marginalized? List several specific examples.

Your thoughts . . .

## Acknowledgements

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